
SENATE BILL 6440

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1998 Regular Session

By Senators Heavey, Prince, Haugen, Horn, Winsley and Jacobsen; by request of Department of Transportation

Read first time 01/19/98. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to studded tires; amending RCW 46.37.420; adding a
2 new section to chapter 46.04 RCW; adding new sections to chapter 46.37
3 RCW; and providing an effective date.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 46.04 RCW
6 to read as follows:

7 "Lightweight stud" means a stud intended for installation and use
8 in a vehicle tire. As used in this title, this means a stud that is
9 recommended by the manufacturer of the tire for the type and size of
10 the tire and that:

11 (1) Weighs no more than 1.5 grams if the stud conforms to Tire Stud
12 Manufacturing Institute (TSMI) stud size 14 or less;

13 (2) Weighs no more than 2.3 grams if the stud conforms to TSMI stud
14 size 15 or 16; or

15 (3) Weighs no more than 3.0 grams if the stud conforms to TSMI stud
16 size 17 or larger.

17 A lightweight stud may contain any materials necessary to achieve the
18 lighter weight.

1 The state patrol may modify this definition by rule adopted under
2 chapter 34.05 RCW. The effective date of any modification must allow
3 a reasonable phase-in period.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 46.37 RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 Beginning January 1, 1999, a person offering to sell to a tire
7 dealer conducting business in the state of Washington, a metal flange
8 or cleat intended for installation as a stud in a vehicle tire shall
9 certify that the studs are lightweight studs as defined in section 1 of
10 this act. Certification must be accomplished by clearly marking the
11 boxes or containers used to ship and store studs with the designation
12 "lightweight."

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 46.37 RCW
14 to read as follows:

15 Beginning July 1, 2000, a person may not sell a studded tire or
16 sell a stud for installation in a tire unless the stud qualifies as a
17 lightweight stud under section 1 of this act.

18 **Sec. 4.** RCW 46.37.420 and 1990 c 105 s 1 are each amended to read
19 as follows:

20 (1) It is unlawful to operate a vehicle upon the public highways of
21 this state unless it is completely equipped with pneumatic rubber tires
22 except vehicles equipped with temporary-use spare tires that meet
23 federal standards that are installed and used in accordance with the
24 manufacturer's instructions.

25 (2) No tire on a vehicle moved on a highway may have on its
26 periphery any block, flange, cleat, or spike or any other protuberance
27 of any material other than rubber which projects beyond the tread of
28 the traction surface of the tire, except that it is permissible to use
29 farm machinery with tires having protuberances that will not injure the
30 highway, and except also that it is permissible to use tire chains or
31 metal studs imbedded within the tire of reasonable proportions and of
32 a type conforming to rules adopted by the state patrol in accordance
33 with section 1 of this act, upon any vehicle when required for safety
34 because of snow, ice, or other conditions tending to cause a vehicle to
35 skid. It is unlawful to use metal studs imbedded within the tire
36 between April 1st and November 1st. The state department of

1 transportation may, from time to time, determine additional periods in
2 which the use of tires with metal studs imbedded therein is lawful.

3 (3) The state department of transportation and local authorities in
4 their respective jurisdictions may issue special permits authorizing
5 the operation upon a highway of traction engines or tractors having
6 movable tracks with transverse corrugations upon the periphery of the
7 movable tracks or farm tractors or other farm machinery, the operation
8 of which upon a highway would otherwise be prohibited under this
9 section.

10 (4) Tires with metal studs imbedded therein may be used between
11 November 1st and April 1st upon school buses and fire department
12 vehicles, any law or regulation to the contrary notwithstanding.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Section 4 of this act takes effect July 1,
14 2004.

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